

Business Leaders Share Their Career Stories with Area 7th Graders at “Your Journey Starts Here”

On February 23, 2010, Castleton State College will play host to 230 seventh grade students from Benson, Castleton Village School, Fair Haven, Mill River Union Middle School, Orwell and Proctor. The occasion is a career exploration day entitled “Your Journey Starts Here!” Key speakers include Angel Acosta, Graduate Student at Plattsburgh State College; Rich Alerico, Head Football Coach at Castleton State College; Whitney Lamy, the founder of Castleton Crackers; and John Casella, President of Casella Waste Management.

The concept is to connect 7th graders with college students in an event that will provide exposure to college campus life, an opportunity to hear transitional career stories from students and adults, and an experiential exercise in the concepts of innovation, teamwork and other key 21st century skills. The goals are to have students begin to understand the decisions they will need to make regarding selection of courses and experiences, build aspiration, and build the conviction that post high school education is a very possible goal for them. They will also become familiar with some of the resources available to help them along the journey. Research has shown that students make decisions in middle school based on their interests and views of future that will have great impact on the opportunities available to them for post-secondary education and for their future careers.

GE Aviation, OMYA, INC., VSAC, Linking Learning to Life and the Vermont Department of Education are sponsoring the event. Cabot Cheese, Pepsi, Castleton State College, Stafford Technical Center and the Rutland Regional Workforce Investment Board made additional contributions.

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